

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 149

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 13, 1996

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning terror attacks in Israel.

Whereas, on February 25, 1996, two vicious terror attacks in Jerusalem and Ashkelon killed two American citizens and 25 Israelis, and wounded over 75 more;

Whereas, on February 26, 1996, an Israeli citizen was killed and 22 Israelis were injured when a terrorist drove a rental car into a Jerusalem bus stop;

Whereas, on March 3, 1996, a suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem took the lives of 18 innocent Israelis and other individuals and injured 10 more;

Whereas, on March 4, 1996, yet another heinous explosion by a suicide bomber in Tel Aviv murdered at least 13 and wounded 130 more;

Whereas, the Gaza-based Hamas terror group claimed responsibility for the most recent bombings, and the Damascus-based Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terror groups have claimed responsibility for the majority of terror attacks since the signing of the Declaration of Principles;

Whereas, these successive incidents represent an unprecedented escalation by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad of their terrorist campaign designed to cause maximum carnage against the peaceful civilian population of Israel, including children, women, and the elderly;

Whereas, these terrorist attacks are aimed not only at innocent Israeli civilians but also at destroying the Middle East peace process;

Whereas, since the signing of the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the PLO on September 13, 1993, nearly 200 people, including 5 American citizens, have been killed in terrorist acts;

Whereas, the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Palestinian Authority and Yasser Arafat have been ineffective and unsuccessful in completely rooting out the vicious terrorist elements from Palestinian controlled areas, calling into question their commitment to the peace process;

Whereas, the vast majority of Palestinian terror suspects have not been apprehended, or if apprehended, not tried

or punished, and no terror suspects requested for transfer have been transferred to Israeli authorities by Palestinian authorities in direct contravention of agreements signed between the PLO and Israel;

Whereas, the Palestinian Authority must now do much more systematically to end the threat posed by terrorist groups and take other steps consistent with the Israel-Palestinian Interim Agreement, including the apprehension, trial, and punishment of those who conduct terrorist acts and implementation of procedures agreed upon with Israel to transfer suspected terrorists;

Whereas, the hateful language calling for Israel's destruction, that remains an integral part of the Palestinian National Covenant only serves to incite those opposed to the peace process;

Whereas, the Palestinian National Covenant has not yet been amended, despite commitments by the PLO to do so;

Whereas these failures undermine and threaten the peace process as well as continued United States financial assistance;

Whereas, the Government of Iran continues to provide safe haven, financial support, and arms to terror groups such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad, or Hizbollah among others, and has in no way acted to restrain these groups from committing acts of terrorism;

Whereas, notwithstanding Syria's participation in a serious negotiating process to reach a peace agreement with Israel, Syria continues to provide a safe haven for terrorist groups opposed to the peace process, permits the arming of Hizbollah in Lebanon, and has not acted to prevent these groups from committing acts of terrorism;

Whereas, failure to act against terrorists by the Palestinian Authority, Iran, Syria and others only undermines the credibility of the peace process: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) condemns and reviles in the strongest terms
4 the attacks in Jerusalem, Ashkelon, and Tel Aviv;

5 (2) extends condolences to the families of all
6 those killed, and to the Government and all the people of the State of Israel;

8 (3) expresses its support and solidarity with the
9 people and Government of the State of Israel;

10 (4) reaffirms its full support for Israel in its efforts to combat terrorism as it attempts to pursue
11 peace with its neighbors in the region;

13 (5) calls upon the Palestinian Authority, the
14 elected Palestinian Council and Chairman Arafat to
15 act swiftly and decisively to apprehend and effectively punish the perpetrators of terror attacks, to
16 prevent such acts of terror in the future, to confiscate all unauthorized weapons and to avoid and
17 condemn all statements and gestures which signal
18 tolerance for such acts and their perpetrators;

21 (6) calls upon Chairman Arafat, the Palestinian
22 Authority and the elected representatives of the Palestinian Council to eliminate the terrorist structure
23

1 and terrorist activities of Hamas, Palestinian Is-
2 lamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of
3 Palestine, and all other terror groups;

4 (7) calls upon Chairman Arafat, the Palestinian
5 Authority and the elected representatives of the Pal-
6 estinian Council to adopt legislative and executive
7 measures to ban the existence and operations of all
8 terrorist organizations resident in the Palestinian
9 autonomous areas;

10 (8) insists that Chairman Arafat convene the
11 Palestinian National Council, so that the Palestinian
12 National Covenant will be amended of its vile ref-
13 erences to Israel within sixty days of the Palestinian
14 Council's inauguration on March 7, 1996;

15 (9) reaffirms its belief that the Palestinian Na-
16 tional Covenant must be amended in order for the
17 peace process to succeed;

18 (10) calls upon the Palestinian people to sup-
19 port the deletion of anti-Israel language from the
20 Palestinian National Covenant;

21 (11) calls upon the Palestinian people to ex-
22 press their revulsion for terrorism against Israel,
23 and condemn and isolate those elements of Palestin-
24 ian society that employ and support such terrorist
25 acts;

1 (12) urges all parties to the peace process, in
2 order to retain the credibility of their commitment to
3 peace, to bring to justice the perpetrators of acts of
4 terrorism, and to cease harboring, financing, and
5 arming terror groups in all territories under their
6 control;

7 (13) calls upon those Arab states that have
8 failed to condemn these acts of terrorism to do so
9 immediately and forthrightly, and to support all ef-
10 forts in the region to combat terrorism;

11 (14) calls upon the international community to
12 cooperate with the United States in isolating states
13 which engage in international terrorism;

14 (15) insists that Iran and Syria cease all sup-
15 port for all terrorist groups operating in areas under
16 their control and refrain from all activities in opposi-
17 tion to the Middle East peace process;

18 (16) expresses its intent to reconsider United
19 States assistance to the Palestinian Authority, in
20 consultation with the Administration, in light of the
21 steps that must be taken by the Palestinian Author-
22 ity against terrorist infrastructures and operations;

23 (17) urges the United States to act decisively
24 and swiftly against those governments who continue

1 to harbor, arm, or finance terror groups seeking to
2 undermine the peace process; and

3 (18) praises United States efforts to provide Is-
4 rael with all appropriate anti-terrorism resources to
5 eliminate the tide of terrorist incidents against Is-
6 rael.

Passed the House of Representatives March 12,
1996.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk.